

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 11th MARCH 2024 MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday, 12th February 2024 in the MRCC, Nelson Lane, North Muskham at 7pm

Present: Councillor I Harrison (Chair)
Councillor S Dolby
Councillor N Hutchings
Councillor A Oliver
Councillor S Preston
Councillor M Talbot

Also present 4 member of the public and County Councillor Laughton

NM159-24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Beddoe and District Councillor Mrs Saddington.

NM160-24 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2024 were accepted as and correct record and signed by the Chair.

NM161-24 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Hutchings and Talbot Beddoe declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 9(a).

NM162-24 Public 10 Minute Session

The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 7.01pm for any questions from the public. A resident raised an ongoing problem with flooding on the highway on Bathley Lane, between the junction with the A1 roundabout and the level crossing. There were also continued problems with the drain at the Ashiana. The Chair advised that the Clerk would raise these with Via and County Councillor Laughton.

A resident referred to the number of potholes on Great North Road which he had previously provided photographs of to log with Via. He was disappointed to note that there had been no improvement. The Clerk confirmed that these were now logged as 'road damage' and a request for a site meeting had been made with Via.

In this respect, Officers from Via had offered a site meeting during week commencing 4th March 2024. After discussion, it was AGREED that Tuesday, 5th March was preferable for Members. Councillor Beddoe would be asked to lead as the Chair and Clerk were unavailable.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.05pm.

NM163-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with District Cllr Mrs Saddington

No report was presented as Councillor Mrs Saddington had given her apologies.

NM164-24 Newark & Sherwood District Council

There were no items to consider.

NM165-24 To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor update Cllr Laughton

This item would be taken when Councillor Laughton arrived.

NM166-24 Nottinghamshire County Council

There were no matters to consider.

NM167-24 Planning

- (a) 24/00068/HOUSE – 11 The Park, North Muskham - Extension to the existing front porch and WC to form a shower room.

Prior to consideration of this item, Councillors Hutchings and Talbot left the room as they had declared an interest.

After consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Dolby, seconded by Councillor Oliver that this application be supported. This was unanimously AGREED.

- (b) 23/02198/HOUSE – 2 Eastfield, North Muskham – Two storey rear extension and internal alterations

After consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Hutchings, seconded by Councillor Talbot that this application be supported. This was unanimously AGREED.

- (c) 24/00125/FULM – Land North of Vicarage Lane, North Muskham - Change of use from agricultural field to dog exercise area, including new deer fencing/gates

On consideration of this application, Members expressed concern at the suitability of the access and capacity included on the site for vehicles.

Members were of the view that there should be sufficient space to allow vehicles to enter and leave the site in a forward manner. They require clarification on the suitability of the access and the capacity for vehicles.

The application was supported, but subject to the above clarification.

- (d) Decision Notice - 23/01922/FUL – Cherry Tree Cottage, Vicarage Lane, North Muskham – Demolish the existing three-bedroom dwelling and garage and erect a new three-bedroom dwelling and timber-framed garage

Members received and noted the decision notice granting permission for the development as outlined.

- (e) Planning Appeal – 23/00447/OUT – The Gate House, Bathley Lane – Outline application for a residential plot within the garden area with all matters reserves

After discussion, it was agreed that the stance previously taken by the Parish Council remained.

(f) Update on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk advised that a discussion had been held with the Planning Policy section at Newark & Sherwood District Council. An offer had been made for an Officer to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to advise Members of the process and assistance they could give. It was AGREED that the Clerk extend an invitation for an Officer to attend the 11th March 2024 meeting.

NM165-24 **To consider any matters that need to be raised with County Councillor update Cllr Laughton**
(cont)

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.24pm for Councillor Laughton's report.

Councillor Laughton advised that the resurfacing of Great North Road from the roundabout to the sugar factory, had been highlighted as requiring urgent attention.

A balanced budget had been set by the County Council for the next two years. Next year was the last year for the adult social care precept.

The Chair referred to the matters raised during the public session which Cllr Laughton advised he would discuss with Officers. The Clerk would email to confirm.

Thanks were extended to Cllr Laughton for covering the costs of the questionnaire to residents regarding the Great North Road solar park.

NM166-24 **Parish Council Matters**

(a) Allotments/Green Hub Report

Councillor Preston advised that there were only a couple of issues to raise regarding the allotments.

There were two vacant plots, 10 and 13. A request had been received from someone interested in having a plot who didn't live in the village, but had local connections. Members had no objection to them being offered a plot.

The other matter related to the track to the allotments. The Clerk confirmed that CEMEX had been reminded that they were going to make a site visit. Members would be advised of any response once received.

(b) To receive an update on the present position with the North Marsh Community Ownership Bid

The Chair advised that approval was sought from Members to move the project forward. Members were aware of the substantial grant confirmation received from the Community Ownership Fund, following which the Clerk and Chair had met with the Council's delegated Project Officer. The deadlines contained within the conditions are required to be met, with the Council having to December 2024 to spend the funds.

Consideration was being given to a suitable time to make a bid to the owners. A request for donations from residents had been well supported, with some £6,500 received, with potential for a further £3,000.

At the January meeting Members had agreed to make an application for a Public Works Loan Board for £47,000 and that was now being processed.

The Chair had made contact with the agents acting for the landowners and a meeting had been arranged for Tuesday, 20th February, to discuss the Council's position in greater detail.

An increase in the Precept had been agreed, which would be ratified later in the meeting. The Chair proposed that the District Council be advised what Precept had been set, and, if the Parish Council were unsuccessful with the project, the Precept would be decreased next year by the same amount, subject to adequate reserves. This was seconded by Councillor Hutchings and AGREED unanimously.

(c) To receive the response on the complaint made to NCHA

The Chair referred to the response received from NCHA regarding the complaint previously made regarding the Section 106 agreement, particularly around tenancy exchanges that did not meet the local connection criteria.

It was considered that a lot of the criteria referred to in the response had not been made clear to the Parish Council at the time the development was proposed.

After discussion, it was AGREED that:

- NCHA be asked to review their Mutual Exchange Policy
- the Clerk discuss the matter with the relevant Planning Officer at Newark & Sherwood District Council

The Clerk was also asked to highlight the problems being experienced by people in the shared ownership properties when trying to sell their property as there was very little take up from those with a local connection.

(d) To note progress with the Community Flood Plan and the appointment of Flood Wardens

A response had now been received from the Emergency Planning Department at Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding the draft Community Emergency Plan.

The Parish Council's draft had been merged with the County Council's template and there were now areas where action was needed to populate in terms of people and equipment.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Chair would continue to review and populate this and seek volunteers that may be useful in terms of an emergency event.

The Clerk was asked to pursue flood signage training and offer the MRCC as a venue if there was a wider requirement for training of flood wardens from other parishes.

Discussion took place regarding the two defibrillators in the village. It had been suggested that the one at the MRCC be swapped with the one at Pinas Hair Design as it was not suitable to use on children. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the monitor of the defibrillators in this regard.

(e) To receive feedback on the Joint Parishes Action Group held on 7th February 2024

The Chair referred to the second Joint Parishes Action Group held at South Muskhams Village Hall on Wednesday, 7th February to discuss the Great North Road Solar Park. Parishes were asked to confirm if they supported future action to try and stop the development. Some parishes present had not formally determined their position on the proposal, although they had responded to the scoping document.

The Action Group had looked to split the 19 parishes into 4 groups, with two representatives from those groups to be invited to join a Parish Strategy Group. Dealing with 19 individual parishes was not effective.

A Community Action Group had been formed and the Parish Strategy Group would work alongside that and report back to parish councils/meetings. This strategy group would be better placed to lobby local authorities and politicians at both local and national level.

The Community Action Group would have the ability to crowd fund and those parishes that had reserves may be asked to help with a combined fund.

A questionnaire would be circulated to all households in the 19 affected parishes in order that parish councils/meetings could be fully informed on the views of their constituents. The questionnaire is intended to raise awareness with residents but also identify to our Parish Council the level of support and objection to the proposal which would inform our support or objection going forward

Parish Councils/Meetings needed to be ready for the statutory consultation that would come later in the year.

(f) To note the attendance of the Chair and Clerk to The Plunkett Foundations 'Discover Co Ops' event on 5th March 2024

Members noted that the Chair and Clerk were to attend this free event on 5th March 2024.

(g) To consider arrangements for an event to commemorate D Day – 6th June 2024

The Clerk confirmed that the National Beacon Lighting event would take place on Thursday, 6th June 2024 with beacons being lit at 9.15pm.

It was AGREED that this National event would be supported, with the potential for further events to be held over the weekend (fun run/afternoon tea at Church and service).

- (h) To consider correspondence from CPRE Nottinghamshire regarding Membership
After consideration, it was AGREED this not be pursued at this time.

NM167-24 Environmental & Community Issues

(a) Play Area

The Clerk advised that a site meeting was scheduled with the handyman on Tuesday, 13th February to review the play area inspection report and actions required.

Members noted that the skatepark had been removed earlier in the day. Opportunity would be taken at the site meeting to inspect the remaining base to ensure that all trip hazards had been removed. Members were invited to join the site meeting should they so wish.

Discussion took place around future use of the base and it was AGREED this be discussed at the site meeting on the 13th February.

Costs for the electricity to the light adjacent to the play area was discussed. As this was connected to the highways electricity supply, any changes would have to be agreed with Via. The Clerk to raise this with Officers for discussion at the highways site meeting on Tuesday, 5th March.

(b) To consider a quotation received regarding the resurfacing under three items in the play area

Members noted the quotation received regarding the resurfacing under three items in the play area, in the sum of

It was AGREED that the surfacing be reviewed at the site meeting on Tuesday, 13th February, and consider options available to the Parish Council.

NM168-24 Highways

(a) Highways Log

This item had been covered under Minute No NM145-24.

NM169-24 Financial Matters

- (a) The Chair referred to the accounts for payment. It was AGREED unanimously that the following accounts be agreed for payment:

- Clerk's Wages – January - £299.60
- PAYE – January – £74.80
- Village Handyman – January - £210.99
- Wordprint – Flyers - £25
- MRCC – January Meeting - £12.50
- MRCC – 50% Car Park Electricity - £76.65
- MRCC – 50% grass cutting Jan to Mar - £131.08

The following receipts were noted:

- Newark & Sherwood Community Lottery – £120
- Donations towards North Marsh – £6,125
- Newark & Sherwood District Council Community Grant - £2,000
- Allotment Rents - £141.20
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(b) Financial Report as at 31st January 2024

Members received and noted the financial report as at 31st January 2024 which showed a balance of £54,572.13 across all the Council's accounts.

(c) To consider a request from the Muskham Rural Community Centre for Grant Support

Members noted the request from the Muskham Rural Community Centre for Grant Support. After discussion it was AGREED this could not be considered at this time until the outcome of the grant from Newark & Sherwood District Council was known. The Clerk was asked to include this request on the agenda for the Parish Council's March meeting.

Councillor Oliver referred to information received from the MRCC solicitors that responsibility for contacting adjacent owners regarding access to the playing field needed to come from the landowner (the Parish Council) and not the tenant (MRCC).

(d) To ratify the decision made regarding the budget for the 2024-25 financial year and the Precept

Members ratified the decision made regarding the budget for the 2024-25 financial year which included payments of £26,061, requiring a Precept of £22,890 supported by additional receipts of £2,300 and a sum of £871 from general reserves.

(e) To note the proposed recharges from Newark & Sherwood District Council for the 2023 May Election

Members noted the proposed recharges from Newark & Sherwood District Council in the sum of £1,567.53. An invoice would be issued shortly. The Clerk advised that a sum of £900 was currently held in reserves, with the balance having to come out of general reserves.

NM170-24 **Notts Association of Local Councils**

There were no matters to consider.

NM171-24 **Correspondence**

There was none to consider.

NM172-24 **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 11th March 2024